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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 16, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: MercyRockford Health System
Projects 15-038, 15-039, and 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please post the enclosed letters as letters of support for the three above-referenced projects.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacob M. Axel
President

enclosures

675 North Court, Suite 210
Palatine, Illinois 60067

Phone (847) 776-7101
Fax (847) 776-7004

Donald A. Manzullo
United States Congressman (1993-2013)
The Sixteenth District of Illinois
792 East Lightsville Road
Egan, IL 61047

September 17, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re:Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

For 20 years I had the honor of serving citizens of northern Illinois as the U.S. Representative for the 16th Congressional District. I strongly support MercyRockford Health System's plans to enhance access to quality healthcare for the Rockford community and the greater northern Illinois/southern Wisconsin region.

I have worked my entire life in support of regionalism and economic development in manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, education and health care. I support MercyRockford's plans for one hospital on two campuses, its commitment to continued service to patients who rely on the N. Rockton Ave. campus for their health care needs, and its plans to invest $400 million in capital development, bringing jobs and economic stimulus to the region.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my support for these applications.

Donald A. Manzullo

Donald A. Manzullo

August 31, 2015

Leading Business Growth
ROCKFORD™
Chamber
of Commerce

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce in support of MercyRockford's three applications before your body for consideration.

The Rockford Chamber of Commerce advocates on behalf of a strong business climate and we believe having high quality health care within our region is imperative in the attraction and retention of residents, jobs, and businesses. The Rockford area is fortunate to have high quality, top-level health care systems in our region that serve our community but also serve as a destination for quality health care for the greater region. Further, looking at health care related employment in our region, this industry represents one of the largest in terms of jobs, educational levels, and compensation levels. For these reasons alone, we believe the proposed projects will further enhance our position as a health care leader and destination for quality care.

Similarly, we recognize both the healthcare benefits and the economic impact of the plans to relocate highly specialized existing services to a second campus on E. Riverside Blvd. and I-90. MercyRockford's plans call for a significant investment in construction that will create jobs, and will see additional economic stimulus in commercial development like hotels and restaurants related to patients and visitors that combine well with the plans for expanded sports tourism in this identified growth corridor. The Chamber appreciates that MercyRockford has established its headquarters in Illinois and is planning significant investment on both the N. Rockton Ave. and the E. Riverside Blvd. campuses.

On behalf of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, I support MercyRockford Health System Projects 15-038, 15-039, and 15-040 and encourage your support as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Einar K. Forsman
President/CEO

OVER

STRONG

308 West State Street, Suite 190, Rockford, Illinois 61101 USA rockfordchamber.com 815.987.8100 815.987.8122 Fax

September 3, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

In addition to being a lifelong resident of Rockford, I am President and CEO of the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB), a private, non-profit organization established in 1984 to promote and champion efforts to make the Rockford Region an overnight visitor destination. RACVB drives quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development. To that end, our organization works closely with Rockford area hotels, restaurants, sports facilities, tourism venues, retailers and other civic organizations.

Along with other employers in the greater Rockford community, we recognize the value of serving residents from the local market and also creating destination attractions for those who come from the region and beyond to Rockford to work, play, shop ... and seek superior quality healthcare. I am strongly supportive of projects - such as MercyRockford's significant investments in improvement to its N. Rockton Avenue Campus and to develop needed services at the proposed E. Riverside Blvd. Campus - that will trigger economic growth and create additional investment in our community.

As you may know, medical tourism is one of the fastest growing economic drivers in growing communities across the nation. MercyRockford Health System's proposed plans will result in net-new economic activity for our region, which will result in additional job growth in our community and significant other ancillary economic benefits. Moreover, I anticipate that these projects will help to stop the outmigration of patients to Wisconsin for services. Those services, when provided in Illinois, will help strengthen the economic climate in our community and state.

Further, I am delighted to know that, as part of the merger of Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System, the new merged entity will be based in Illinois and specifically in Rockford. This commitment underscores the new entity's commitment to the region and Illinois.

As you review their applications, on behalf of our region I encourage you to give the proposals favorable consideration and approval.

Very truly yours,

John Groh

John Groh
President and CEO

cc: Roberta Holzwarth, Chair, RACVB Board of Directors

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau 102 North Main Street Rockford, Illinois 61101-1102 USA
815.963.8111 800.521.0849 815.963.4298 (fax) **www.gorockford.com**

Adding wealth to the region's economy by growing tourism.